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1.-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) A process for constructing a braided, branched stent having a body and a plurality of legs, each leg comprising a discrete plurality of continuous filaments, the process comprising the steps of:

a) braiding each plurality of continuous filaments to individually form at least first leg portions of each of the legs; and

b) braiding at least one filament from each plurality of continuous filaments together to form a first body portion of the body;

wherein at least one braiding step comprises braiding the stent using at least one tapered filament comprising at least one first region having a first, relatively larger cross-sectional area and at least one second region having a second, relatively smaller cross-sectional area.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 23 comprising braiding each braided portion of each leg using one of the second regions of the tapered filament and braiding the braided portion of the body using the first region of the tapered filament.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 23 comprising braiding each braided portion of each leg using one of the first regions of the tapered filament and braiding the braided portion of the body using the second region of the tapered filament.

26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 23 comprising prior to steps (a) and (b), winding each tapered filament between two bobbins such that a first end of the filament is wound on a first bobbin and a second end of the filament is wound on a second

bobbin, and positioning a midpoint of the filament on the mandrel to form an apex at an end of the stent.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 26, wherein the first end is located within one of the second regions having the second, relatively smaller cross-sectional area and the second end is located within another of the second regions and the midpoint of the filament is located within the first region having the first, relatively larger cross-sectional area.

28. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 26, wherein the first end is located within one of the first regions having the first, relatively larger cross-sectional area and the second end is located within another of the first regions and the midpoint of the filament is located within the second region having the second, relatively smaller cross-sectional area.

29.-32. (Canceled).